



Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 13, 2021

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Sowing with Recklessness

As We Gather

In the world of modern farming, where soil is analyzed and treated to maximize crop growth, and seed is genetically modified for increased yields, farming methods at the time of Christ seem almost inconceivable. In those days the farmer simply scattered the seed and then got out of the way, trusting the seed to do what it does by itself. This is the model by which the church of Jesus Christ operates. We sow the seed of the Gospel with recklessness, proclaiming the Word of Christ to every ear, unconcerned about where it may fall, and permitting the seed to do what it does by itself. The growth is not our concern. Our only concern is to be a faithful sowers of the seed, and then to trust God to do the rest.

Organ Prelude

Welcome and Ringing of the Tower Bell

804 O Worship the King

- 1 O worship the King,
all-glorious above.
O gratefully sing
His pow'r and His love;
Our shield and defender,
the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor
and girded with praise.

- 2 O tell of His might,
O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath
the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path
on the wings of the storm.
- 3 This earth, with its store
of wonders untold,
Almighty, Thy pow'r
hath founded of old,
Established it fast
by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast,
like a mantle, the sea.
- 4 Thy bountiful care
what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air,
it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills,
it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills
in the dew and the rain.
- 5 Frail children of dust
and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust,
nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender,
how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender,
redeemer, and friend!
- 6 O measureless Might,
ineffable Love,
While angels delight
to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation,
though feeble their lays,
With true adoration
shall sing to Thy praise.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 1:5–6

P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

C for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Silence for self-examination.

- P** Holy and gracious God,
- C** **I confess that I have sinned against You, in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have not done. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior, I ask forgiveness and pray You to deliver and restore me by Your mercy. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 92:12–15; antiphon: v. 1

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High.
The righteous flourish like the palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.
They are planted in the house of the LORD;
they flourish in the courts of our God.
They still bear fruit in old age;
they are ever full of sap and green,
to declare that the LORD is upright;
he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High.

584 Faith and Truth and Life Bestowing

- 1** **Faith and truth and life bestowing,
Open now the Scriptures, Lord,
Seed to life eternal sowing,
Scattered on the wind abroad.
Let not hearts, Your Word receiving,
Like a barren field be found,
Choked with thorns and unbelieving,
Shallow earth or stony ground.**

- 2 **May the Spirit's pow'r unceasing**
Bring to life the hidden grain,
Daily in our hearts increasing,
Bearing fruit that shall remain.
So in Scripture, song, and story,
Savior, may Your voice be heard.
Till our eyes behold Your glory
Give us ears to hear Your Word.

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Salutation & Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament

Ezekiel 17:22-24

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. ²⁴And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 1; antiphon: v. 6



¹Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,*
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;

²**but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,***
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

³He is like a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not | wither.*

In all that he does, he | prospers.

⁴**The wicked | are not so,***
but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

⁵Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,*
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous;
⁶**for the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,***
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:1-17

¹We know that if the tent, which is our earthly home, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ²For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. ⁴For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

⁶So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Verse

2 Peter 3:18a

P Alleluia. Grow in the grace and knowledge

C of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶[Jesus] said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? ³¹It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. ³⁴He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Sermon "Growing By God's Grace"

654 Your Kingdom, O God, Is My Glorious Treasure

- 1 Your kingdom, O God, is my glorious treasure,
My pearl of incomparable worth.
Its value exceeds every standard of measure,
Surpassing the wealth of the earth.
Lord, give me Your grace and the power of the Spirit
To value this treasure aright
That, never allured by the world, I inherit
Your kingdom of glory and light.
- 2 Your kingdom, O God, is alive with the power
Your Word and Your Spirit bestow.
Like yeast, they affect the whole measure of flour,
Enabling Your kingdom to grow.
Empower me, Lord, as I live Your commission,
Though humble my service may be,
And bring every planting to perfect fruition,
A mustard seed grown to a tree.
- 3 Your kingdom, O God, is a field for the growing
Of seeds that Your mercy has sown;
But still in our midst is the enemy sowing
The weeds that imperil Your own.
Sustain me, O Lord, till Your day of returning
And harvest me homeward at last,
To shine in the homeland that quiets all yearning,
Where sorrow and danger are past.

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Sermon

577 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

- 1 Almighty God, Your Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.
- 2 Let not the sly satanic foe
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.
- 3 Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.
- 4 So when the precious seed is sown,
Life-giving grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving pow'r may know.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Organ Offertory and Steward *MINUTE*

Offering Prayer

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for
all people as they have need.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

Blessed Savior, Jesus Christ, You have given Yourself to us in this Holy Sacrament. Keep us in Your faith and favor that we may live in You even as You live in us. May Your body and blood preserve us in the true faith to life everlasting. Hear us for the sake of Your name.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

921 On What Has Now Been Sown

1 On what has now been sown
Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
The pow'r is Thine alone
To make it sprout and grow.
Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

- 2 To Thee our wants are known,
From Thee are all our pow'rs;
Accept what is Thine own
And pardon what is ours.
Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
And to Thy Word a blessing give.**
- 3 O grant that each of us,
Now met before Thee here,
May meet together thus
When Thou and Thine appear
And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!**

✠ Soli Deo Gloria ✠

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